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**Amendments to the claims**

1.-32. (canceled)

33. (currently amended) A laser module comprising:

a laser diode having a front facet;

an optical fiber having a fiber end disposed to form a coupling region between the front facet and the fiber end to couple light emitted from the front facet to the optical fiber along a first path; and

a monitor photo diode disposed to a side of the coupling region substantially out of the first path to couple light from at least one of the fiber end and the front facet.

34. (original) The laser module of claim 33 wherein the photo diode is disposed adjacent to the coupling region.

35. (original) The laser module of claim 33 wherein the laser diode has an aperture in the front facet, the aperture having a fast axis and a slow axis, the monitor photo diode being disposed to couple light from the laser diode in the fast axis.

36. (original) The laser module of claim 33 wherein the laser diode has an aperture in the front facet, the aperture having a fast axis and a slow axis, the monitor photo diode being disposed to couple light from the laser diode in the slow axis.

37. (original) The laser module of claim 33 wherein the monitor photo diode is disposed to couple light reflected from the fiber end.

38. (original) The laser module of claim 37 further comprising a reflectance-increasing coating on the fiber end.

39. (original) The laser module of claim 33 wherein the monitor photo diode is disposed to couple light emitted from the fiber end.

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40. (original) The laser module of claim 33 wherein the laser diode and the optical fiber are mechanically coupled to a substrate and the monitor photo diode is disposed between the coupling region and the substrate.

41. (original) The laser module of claim 40 wherein the laser diode and the optical fiber are mechanically coupled to the substrate with a submount.

42.-45. (canceled)

46. (previously presented) The laser module of claim 33 wherein the optical fiber includes a fiber Bragg grating.

47. (previously presented) The laser module of claim 46 wherein the fiber Bragg grating has a reflectivity greater than 6% and wherein a first portion of back-reflected light is coupled into the laser diode and a second portion of back-reflected light is coupled into the monitor photo diode.

48. (new) The laser module of claim 33 wherein the monitor photo diode couples light from the front facet.

49. (new) The laser module of claim 33 wherein the monitor photo diode couples light from the front facet and from the fiber end.

50. (new) The laser module of claim 33 wherein the coupling region is on the order of ten microns.